

**2015 APPROVED  
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE  
for the  
LAND GRANT COMMITTEE**

**Members**

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Rep. D. Wonda Johnson  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Rep. Matthew McQueen  
Rep. Christine Trujillo

**Work Plan**

The Land Grant Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on April 27, 2015. The committee proposes to focus on the following topics:

1. an overview of land grant history, including contemporary history (a continuing item throughout the interim);
2. analysis of the capital outlay challenges faced by land grants with political subdivision status and mechanisms to mitigate those challenges;
3. an update on the revision process to the forest management plans for the Cibola, Carson and Santa Fe national forests and the experience of land grants-mercedes as first-time cooperating agencies in the development of those revisions;
4. an examination of challenges facing partitioned land grants;
5. continuing review of methods to increase the institutional strength of land grants-mercedes as political subdivisions of the state, including:
  - a. the development of programs designed to promote community-based legal services for land grants-mercedes, acequias and colonias regarding zoning, rule-making processes, governmental liability and other areas of law vital to smaller communities; and
  - b. comprehensive land use and economic development planning;

6. review of property tax assessment policies in correlation with preservation of common community lands;
7. a discussion with the Attorney General's Office regarding the obligations of the United States to community land grants pursuant the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; particularly including an examination of potential methods for reopening and reversing the ruling in *United States v. Sandoval*, which severed many forest-dependent land grants from their traditional community lands;
8. discussions with the State Game Commission regarding local access to former community lands at the Edward Sargent and W.A. Humphries wildlife areas and incorporating land grants-mercedes as cooperating agencies for elk herd management;
9. an update from the Acequia Association and the Acequia Commission;
10. an update from the Land Grant Council;
11. an examination of the legal and governmental service needs of colonias communities;
12. updates on land management and use issues from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management;
13. an update on organizational, land use and economic development issues at La Petaca Land Grant-Merced;
14. an evaluation of how the Land Grant Committee can better facilitate the continuing development of land grants-mercedes;
15. an update on the reorganization of the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant-Merced;
16. a status report from the Ojo Caliente Land Grant; and
17. a status report from the Cristobal de la Serna Land Grant-Merced.

**Land Grant Committee  
2015 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 10	State Capitol, Santa Fe
July 8-9	Taos
September 2-3	Las Vegas-Mora
October 8-9	Tierra Amarilla
November 6	State Capitol, Santa Fe